ANTITROGUS VILLOSUS SP. N. (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE: MELOLONTHINAE) FROM WESTERN VICTORIA

P.G. ALLSOPP

Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, P.O. Box 651, Bundaberg, Qld, 4670

Abstract

Antitrogus villosus sp. n. is described from males taken near Dimboola, western Victoria.

Introduction

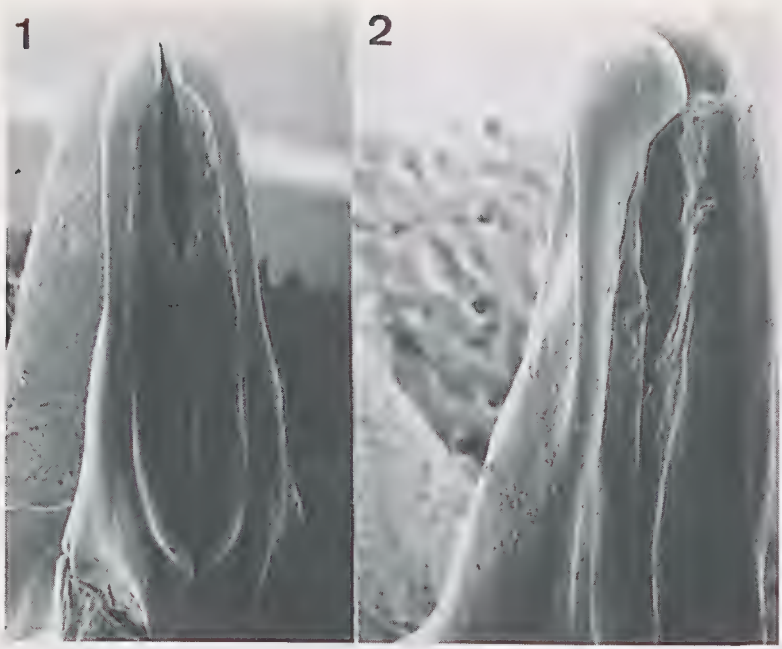
In his revision of the Australian Melolonthini, Britton (1978) recognised 17 species of *Antitrogus* Burmeister, all from the eastern half of the continent. He predicted that, because of the very limited flight periods of adults (about 0.5 h at dusk on very few nights in the year), additional *Antitrogus* spp. may be found. Britton (1980) added a further species, *A. setifrons* Britton, from central Queensland. In considering the identity of specimens from southern Queensland attributed to *A. mussoni* (Blackburn), I have reinstated *A. consanguineus* (Blackburn) and *A. rugulosus* (Blackburn) from synonymy and restricted the distribution of *A. mussoni* to central New South Wales (Allsopp 1993). Houston and Weir (1992) interpreted Britton's (1978) incorrect references to holotypes of some *Antitrogus* spp. as lectotype designations. This paper describes a new species of *Antitrogus* from western Victoria.

Antitrogus villosus sp. n.
Figs 1-2

Types - VICTORIA: *holotype* ♂, 5 km S of Dimboola [36°25'S, 142°03'E], 25.xi.1988, H. & A. Howden, in Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC), registered no. 110; *paratypes* 14 ♂♂, same data as holotype, in ANIC, Allsopp (Bundaberg), Howden (Ottawa, Canada), Museum of Victoria, Queensland Department of Primary Industries (Mareeba) and Queensland Museum collections.

Description

MALE: Length 15.5-16.5 mm. Head, pronotum, scutellum, pygidium and venter brown, pronotum mottled with dark brown marks, elytra dark brown to more reddish brown near lateral and anterior margins, antennal lamellae yellow-brown. Labrum not strongly projecting and not deflexed, densely setose, anterior margin bilobed with shallow rounded emargination. Anterior face of clypeus deep, ratio greatest width: mid depth 4.3:1, with scattered setiferous punctures in middle as well as towards sides; upper surface of clypeus with well-defined punctures with long setae, shiny between punctures, flat except for recurved anterior and lateral margins, outline almost semicircular, transverse, ratio greatest width: mid length 2.1:1; clypeofrontal suture slightly indented in middle. Frons with long dense setae arising from well-defined punctures anterior to midline of eyes, posterior smooth and



Figs 1-2. *Antitrogus villosus* Male parameres

glabrous. Last segment of maxillary palp broad, ratio greatest width: length 2.5:1, with a large dull-surfaced area on upper side. Antennae 10-segmented, club 5⅔-lamellate, lamellae of segments 6-10 5.4 mm long, lamella of segment 5 3.7 mm long. Pronotum covered with dense long thin yellowish setae arising from well-defined punctures, ratio greatest width: mid length 1.65:1, anterior edge defined by a raised margin from side to side, posterior edge without defined margin in middle, lateral margins well rounded, posterior angles obtuse. Scutellum U-shaped, with punctures and setae similar to pronotum. Elytra with deep rugose punctures each with a short yellowish seta or occasionally with a long yellowish seta, long setae more common near anterior margin, surface between punctures smooth and shiny. Venter clothed with dense long thin yellow setae. Fore tibiae with proximal tooth very small. Claws with a small tooth close to base. Pygidium uniformly clothed with semierect sharp yellow-white setae. Venter clothed with yellowish setae, longer towards middle and less dense on middle anterior of each sternite; sutures separating sternites 3-5 fainter in middle than at sides. Parameres symmetrical (Figs 1-2).

FEMALE: Unknown.

Notes

The long setae on the head and pronotum, and the male antennal club of six lamellae clearly place *A. villosus* in a group with the central Queensland *A. setifer* Britton and *A. adamsi* Britton. Males of *A. villosus* can be separated from those of *A. setifer* and *A. adamsi* by having the lamella of antennal segment 5 about two-thirds as long as the remaining lamellae, by the defined anterior margin of the pronotum, and by the shape of the parameres. *A. villosus* can be incorporated into the key to male *Antitrogus* spp. (Britton 1978, 1980; Allsopp 1993) by renumbering couplet 10 as 10a and inserting:

10 (9). Pronotum uniformly clothed with long, thin, yellowish setae .. .. *villosus* Allsopp

Pronotum with minute setae 10a

Flights of *Antitrogus* spp., e.g. *A. consanguineus* and *A. parvulus* Britton, often follow rainfall (Allsopp unpubl. data). Dimboola recorded 4.4 mm of rain on 24 November 1988 (Australia Post, Dimboola, pers. comm.).

The specific name is the Latin adjective *villosus*, hairy, and refers to the long setae on the head and pronotum.

Acknowledgment

I thank Henry and Anne Howden for their hospitality and access to their collection.

References

ALLSOPP, P.G. 1993. Identity of canegrubs attributed to *Antitrogus mussoni* (Blackburn) (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae). *Coleopterist's Bulletin* **47:** 195-201.

BRITTON, E.B. 1978. A revision of the Australian chafers (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae) Vol.2. Tribe Melolonthini. *Australian Journal of Zoology, Supplementary Series* **60:** 1-150.

BRITTON, E.B. 1980. New Australian Melolonthinae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). *Journal of the Australian Entomological Society* **18:** 193-197.

HOUSTON, W.W.K. and WEIR, T.A. 1992. Melolonthinae. pp. 174-358 *In* Houston, W.W.K. (Ed.), *Zoological Catalogue of Australia. Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea*. Vol. 9. Canberra: AGPS.